

Work in old age in Asia

Informality and decent work

Many people keep working* after age 60 ...

Proportion of older people (60+) in employment



Nepal



Philippines



Bangladesh



Vietnam



Thailand



*The term "work" is used here to refer to a form of employment (including self-employment) that provides some form of income.

Work is important source of income for many

- For many older people in Asia, work makes up an important portion of their income mix

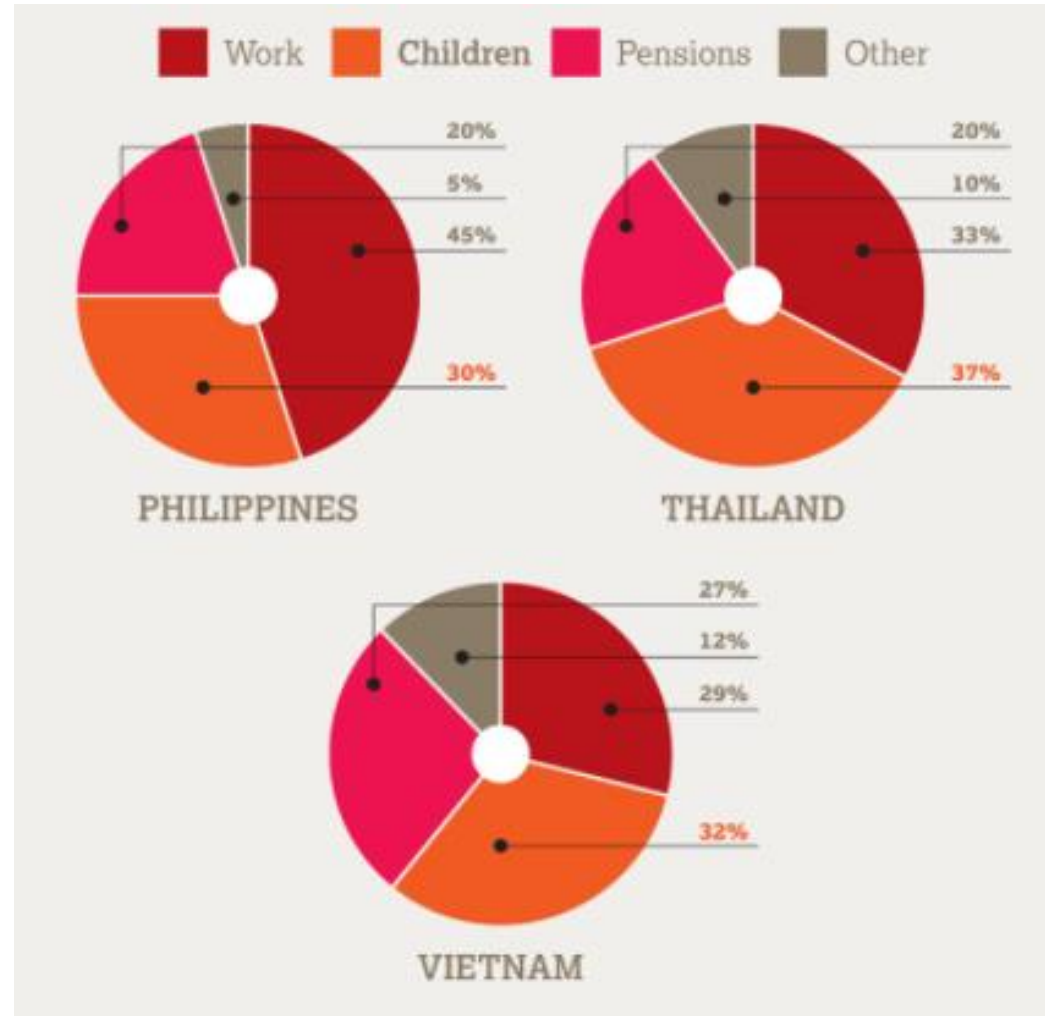
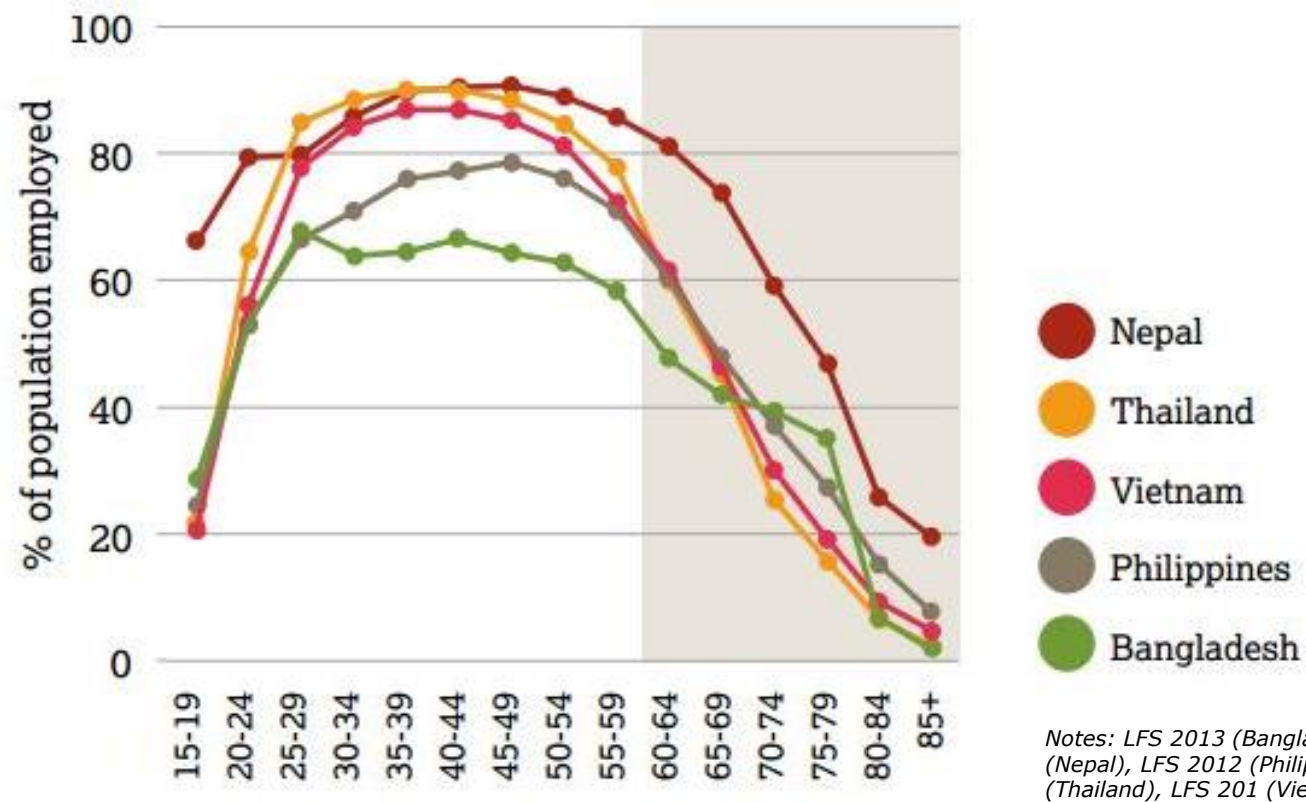


Figure 2: Levels of employment, by age (15+)



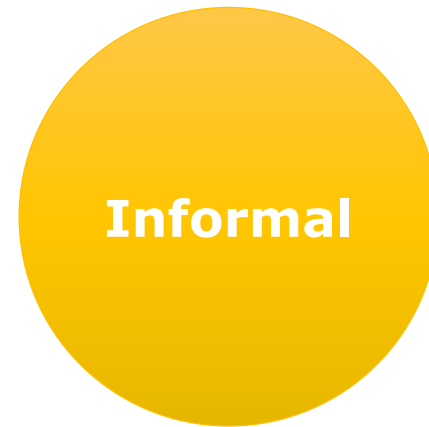
Source: C. Knox-Vydmanov. 2015. *Work, family and social protection*. Chiang Mai: HelpAge International

Two spheres of work

Formal vs. Informal in Asia



37.8%

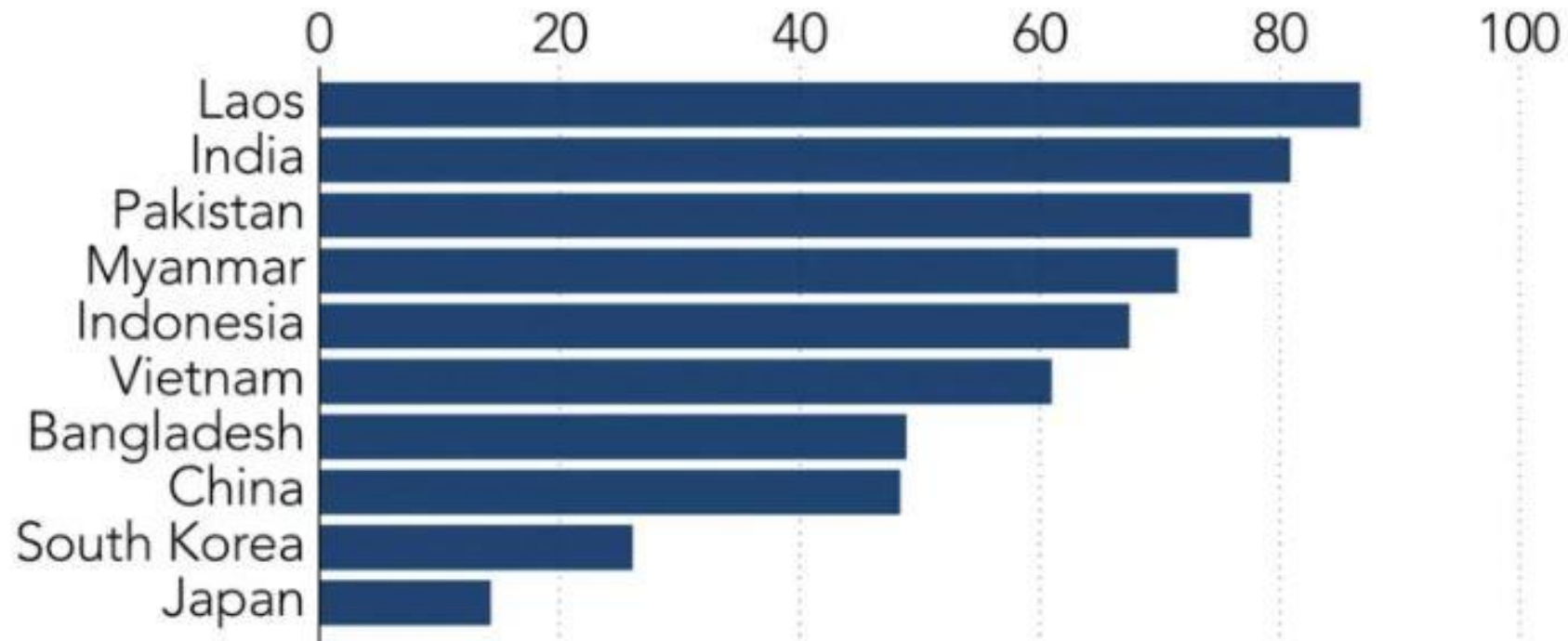


62.2%

How big is informality in Asia-Pacific?

- 1.3 billion people (68.2% of all employed population)
- 65% of informal workers globally are in Asia, of which:
 - 71.4 per cent in developing and emerging Asian countries
 - 21.7 per cent in developed Asian countries

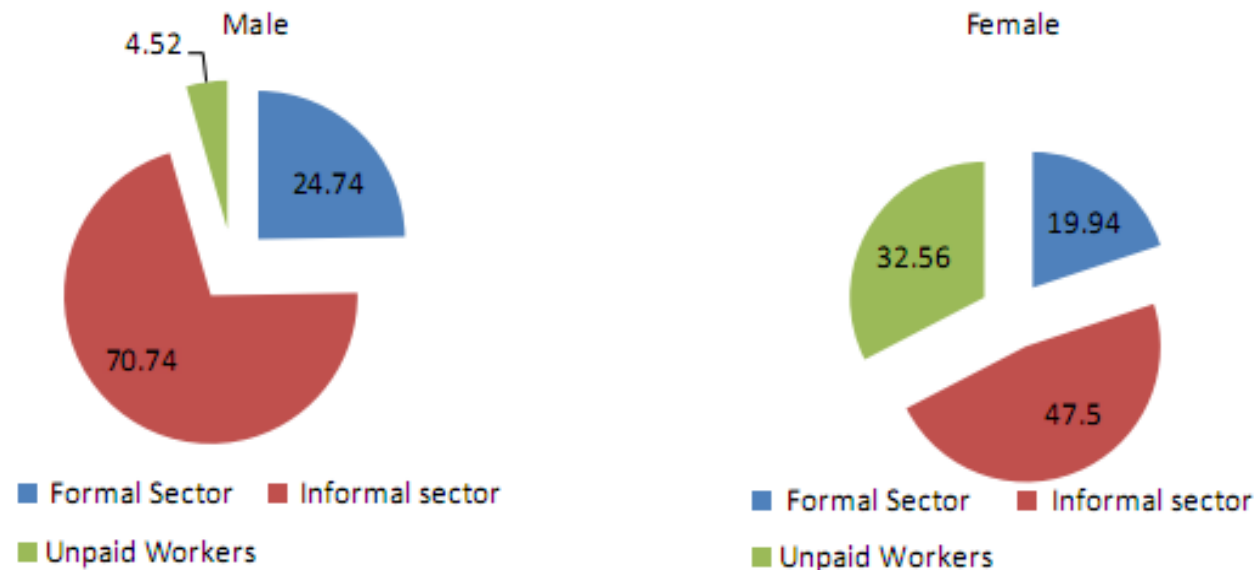
Informal sector employment in selected Asian countries *(workforce, in percent)*



Source: International Labour Organization

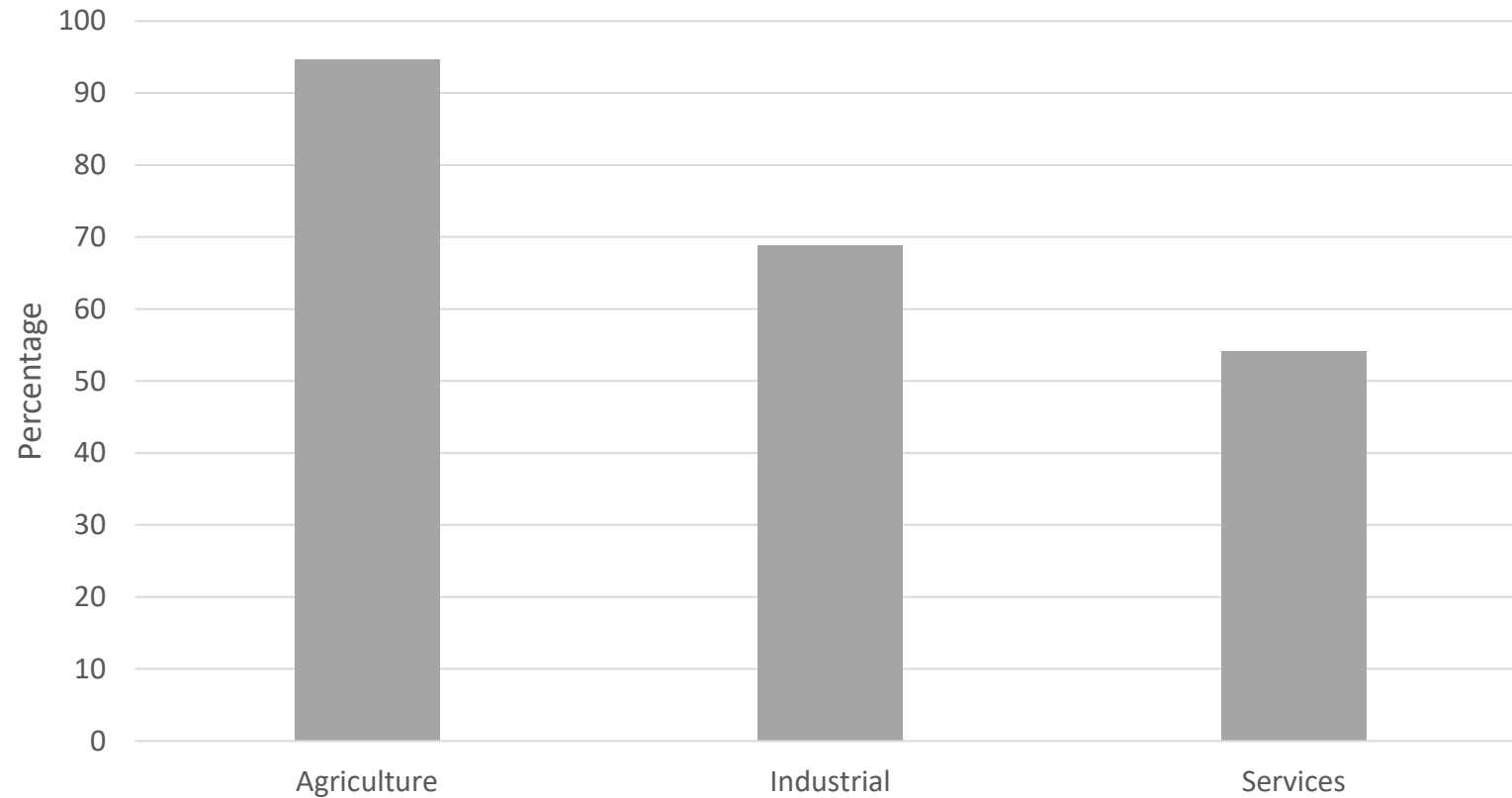
Indonesia

Older worker participation in the formal and informal labour market by gender, 2011



Source: HelpAge International and the Demographic Institute, Faculty of Economics at the University of Indonesia, Social assistance needs of poor and vulnerable older people in Indonesia, 2012

Where is the informal work in Asia-Pacific?



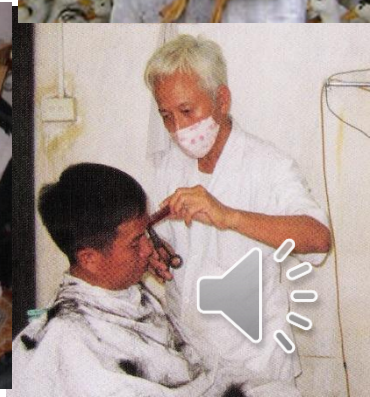
Source: ILO

Characteristics

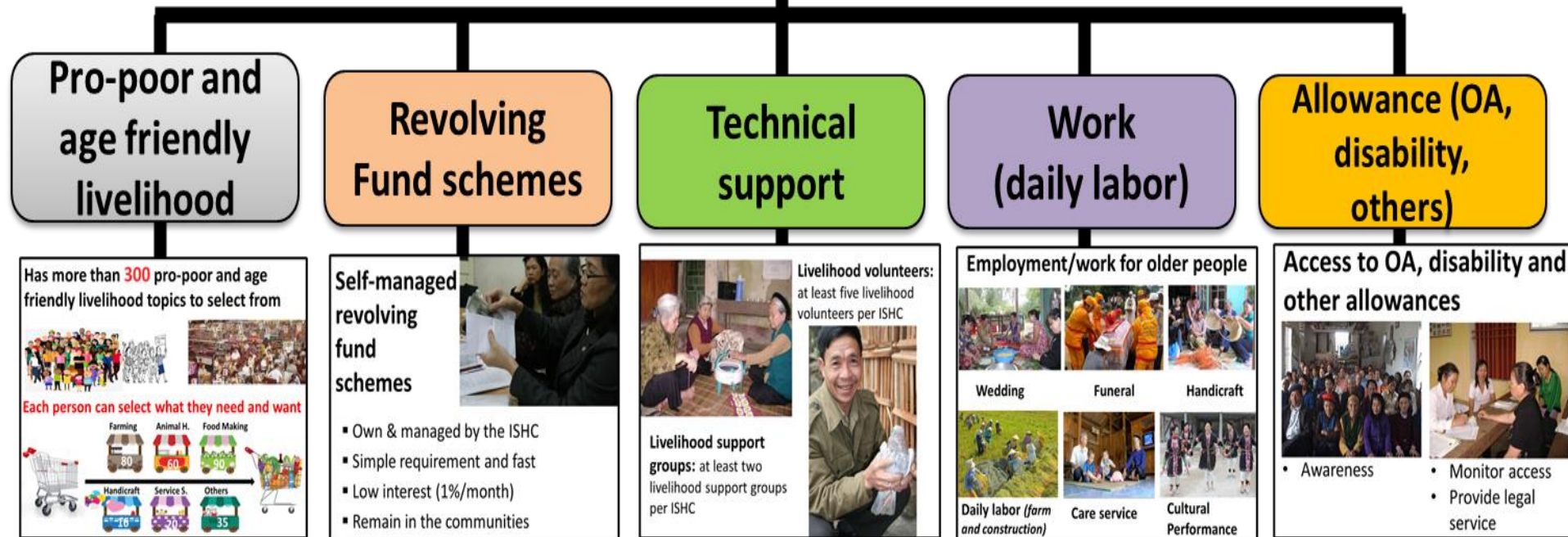
A large majority of workers are -in law or in practice- not covered (or insufficiently covered) by a rights framework or included in “Decent work”:

- do not have contract
- do not have employment stability
- no labour and union rights
- no occupational health and safety conditions
- absence of social insurance or pensions, sick pay etc.
- Large proportion of self-employed
- Includes unpaid work, especially women
- High volatility of income

Older People Associations and work



Food and Income Security Component



10,783 Households
received loans and
or livelihood inputs



728 IGA support groups
established



1,829 economic
volunteers



52.8% increased in
annual HHs income

4,514 cases received
access to right
and entitlement

88.2% Wealthier



571,910 USD -
Self-generated income from the **364** ISHCs



Connecting informal and decent work

Given the breadth and resilience of informal employment, the most effective way of ensuring some basic rights are in the scope of **universal approaches**

- Ensuring Universal Health Care
- Ensuring basic income in old age (universal, non-contributory pension), expanding social security
- Promoting social and community based organisations
- Supporting the right to associate
- Context specific responses, by sectors (i.e. agriculture, self-employment, domestic work, workplaces with small number of workers)